**The Relationships Between Democracy and Civil Society**

**1. History of Civil Society:**

**Hegelian View:**

Hegel believed that civil society is a group of social activities that happen between families and the government. He thought these activities are shaped by capitalism (the economic system where businesses are privately owned).

**Marxian View:**

Marx saw civil society as a place where exploitation happens. He thought it was the real stage where history unfolds, meaning important events and changes occur here.

**Gramscian View:**

Gramsci viewed civil society as part of the state’s way to control people’s ideas and beliefs. He believed it helps to keep capitalism in place.

**2. Operational Definition of Civil Society:**

Civil society can be understood as having three main parts:

**Institutions:** These are established organizations or systems that help society function, like schools or hospitals.

**Organizations**: These are groups formed by people to achieve common goals, such as non-profits or community groups.

**Individuals**: These are the people who make up civil society and participate in various activities.

**3. Measurable Characteristics of Civil Society:**

Civil society has certain features that can be measured:

**The Commons**: Shared resources that everyone can use.

**Office**: Positions of responsibility within organizations.

**Associations**: Groups of people who come together for a common purpose.

**Trusteeship**: The responsibility to manage and care for resources or organizations.

**Sovereignty**: The authority of a group or organization to govern itself.

**Accountability**: The obligation to explain actions and decisions to others.

**Equity**: Fairness and justice in treatment and opportunities.

**Justice**: The principle of fairness and moral rightness.

**Reciprocity**: Mutual exchange and support among individuals and groups.

**5. Civil Society and Democratic Transition in Pakistan:**

* **Role of Civil Society**: Includes non-governmental groups that work for the public good.
* **Support for Democracy**: Encourages citizen participation in political processes (e.g., voting).
* **Promoting Accountability**: Monitors government actions and reports issues like corruption.
* **Encouraging Participation**: Motivates people to engage in community discussions and activities.
* **Challenges**: Faces obstacles like restrictions on free speech and government opposition.
* **Conclusion**: Civil society is crucial for fostering a stronger, more democratic system in Pakistan.